

Dalrulzion 2024 Revision

Land Management Plan Brief

Introduction

This brief gives an outline for the Land Management Plan (LMP) revision of the forests and land managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) in the Dalrulzion block. In this brief the background and preliminary objectives will be outlined and the project timeline provided. The purpose of this brief is to ensure all stakeholders are informed of the revision process, the potential changes to management and that they have the ability to feed into the process at an early stage.

This document is accompanied by 5 maps;

Map 1 – Location and Viewpoints

Map 2 – Key Features

Map 3 – Management Coupes (to be revised)

Map 4 – Future Habitats and Species (to be revised)

Map 5 – Issues and Opportunities - Scoping

1. Project scope

This LMP revision will result in the new plan that will run from 2025-2035. The new plan will realign with the any changes in strategy, policy and guidance implemented over the last decade. FLS will ensure the new plan is in line with [Scotland's Forestry Strategy](#) (2019-2029), [Forestry and Land Scotland's Corporate Plan](#) (2022-2025). It will be delivered in accordance with the [United Kingdom Forestry Standard](#) (UKFS) and the [United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard](#) (UKWAS).

The main outputs from the revision will be the felling and restocking proposals of which the old versions are demonstrated spatially in **Maps 3** and **4**. We will also be reviewing our approach to the management of designated and environmentally valuable sites, tree health, invasive non-native species, civil engineering work and engagement with local communities. This to be updated through both internal and external consultation as well as desk and site-based research.

The LMP process can be split up in four stages; Scoping, Draft, Consultation, Final plan approval. Currently the Dalrulzion plan is in the Scoping stage. At this stage FLS is looking for input from stakeholders regarding their ambitions and plans relating to the National Forests and Land and any issues or opportunities.

Community Asset Transfer Scheme (CATS) applications, community agreements, renewable agreements and leases will not be part of the LMP revision but FLS is welcoming comments or ideas. These will be processed alongside the LMP revision and where necessary might influence one another.

2. Background

The Dalrulzion forest block is situated in Glen Shee, south of the Cairngorms, where the plateau starts to give way to the lower, more fertile, lands of Perthshire. The block sits due south of Dalrulzian and west of the Black water, which meets the river Ericht four miles south at Bridge of Cally. It's visible from within the glen particularly when driving south on the A93 (**Map 1 – Location and Viewpoints**).

The block is entirely contiguous and encompasses 365.53ha of ground. It consists of a mix of first and second rotation crops and has sustained severe wind damage in the storms of the last winters. Currently approximately 15% of the ground is felled awaiting to be restocked with a further 10% of internal open ground. The remaining 75% is forested and either mature or young as can be seen in the graph below.

There are no conservation designations within the block however, the River Tay SAC (8366) is, at its closest, less than 100 meters downstream from the block. Dalrulzion does contain a large scheduled monument (SM5777) along with several other heritage features and a core path and right of way which runs from Craigton Farmhouse, past the scheduled monument and over the hill to Strathardle. Furthermore, the block contains water supplies for adjacent landowners and is within a surface water protected area. All features are demonstrated spatially on **Map 2 – Key Features**.

The Dalrulzion block contain a variety of different soils and fertility ranges. A large part of the block consists of upland brown earths allowing for reasonable growth and rooting. To the southwest of the block ironpans inhibit rooting resulting in reduced stability and nutrient availability. Where landform retains water and/or slows drainage, gleys and bogs are found. The underlying geology is formed by psammites of the Dalradian supergroup with an overlying glacial deposit in the glens resulting in moderate nitrogen availability.

The block has historically been used mainly as a productive block and recreational usage has consisted of local small-scale use for dog walking, fishing and access to the open hill beyond by way of the core path.

3. Key Issues and Opportunities

During the preparation of the revision a variety of issues and objectives have been identified. These are shown spatially on **Map 5 – Issues and Opportunities**.

The main issues identified by FLS in the block are as follows:

- Management of windblown coupes
- Plant Health threat - *Phytophthora ramorum*
- Sustainable Timber Production and harvesting of mature crops
- Drinking water quality – Private and Public supplies
- Maintenance of Scheduled monument
- Increase in native broadleaf planting

The key challenges of the revision will be managing the rate of change as a result of the cleaning up of windblown crops and removal of larch. The removal and subsequent restock will open up opportunities for age and species diversification to ensure a more diverse and resilient forest going forward.

4. Time Frame

What	When
Scoping	September/October 2024
Draft Plan Completion	November 2024
Consultation	December 2024
Internal Review	December 2023
Submission	December 2024